

The Times Dispatch

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1914.

OVERTAKEN ON THE BROAD ROAD.

The American public has caught up with the distinguished statesman who comes to-night to address the Virginia Democratic Progressive League.

For ten years Mr. Bryan headed the vanguard. Beginning in 1896, when he championed the cause of free silver and continuing through the campaign of 1908, he enunciated, along with many constructive ideas, several policies which the great body of American voters were not in sympathy. Admired by his supporters, who would carry his torches and cheer for him in the darkest night of Democratic darkness. But other thousands—men more conservative, more deliberate—while recognizing his great gifts and admiring his purity of life, were unwilling to accept his every opinion as the final word of political wisdom. Respect for the man could not overcome distrust of his policies, however honestly advocated they were.

Now we witness a change of sentiment. The great Democrat who wished that Mr. Bryan might be eliminated has chosen him for the most responsible office in his gift, and has publicly expressed his profound admiration for him as a man and a friend. American citizens who had only bitter words for Mr. Bryan are outspoken in praise of his good sense, his sane leadership and his loyalty to his chief, others who never read his utterances except to scoff now devour his writings and crowd the public halls to hear him speak.

The people have changed, the times have changed; the man has changed. Those theories of government which ten years ago seemed fit only for some Utopia are now in operation; those hopes that appeared no more than idle dreams are being realized in the every act of Congress; the views of the few are now the principles of the many. Still more, the entire spirit of public life has been transformed during the years since 1896. The great industrial corporations then in the making have grown mighty, have crushed opposition, have become insolent, and now, under the same legislation of a few years ago, are hastening to conform to the law they ridiculed. The "special privileges" which then dominated the Senate and wrote on our statute-books robber tariff laws have been curbed and humbled. A new ideal of business prevails, a new standard of efficiency and of responsibility has come into being.

And the man who saw these things from afar has changed as they have changed. A great part of his political creed has become the accepted platform of his party, he has adjusted himself, perhaps, to the sacrifice of other views. Mr. Bryan advocated free silver, and free silver has been repudiated; he insisted upon government ownership of railroads, but the railroads are still in private hands; he urged the guarantee of bank deposits, but bank directors are still responsible. Nevertheless, as he cried for individual responsibility, for honest elections and for the prompt fulfillment of the will of the people, he has been heeded. When he walked in the byways, few followed; when he returned to the broad road, the crowd overtook him.

As he visits us to-day, Mr. Bryan should know that the people of Virginia—those who agreed with him in previous years and those who could not indorse his policies—welcome him as a sane leader and a wise counselor. They respect him as a high man, a patriot, a Christian. For the change in the popular belief in government and for the new confidence with which the people face the future, none deserves greater thanks than does he.

Think of men named Callahan and McGraw and Daily saluting a King—two an English King at that!

Exchange informs us that Villa is pronounced like the Latin word "vill," meaning "a way," to which we have to say only that it is a mighty bad way.

Harry Thaw is now in the movies, but New York hasn't been able to get him to move her way.

A man has to put all of his eggs in one basket in these days. He could hardly divide the egg between two.

It has been declared by opponents of eugenic marriage that, had the practice been compulsory many years ago, the advocates of the plan would not now be living. In itself a good argument for eugenic marriage.

The New York Supreme Court finds fault with the "baste" of the Becker trial, which consumed twenty days. The average man will wonder how New York, with a murder every day, can hope to try and convict all its murderers. If it must spend more than twenty days on each one.

Secretary McAdoo says coin should last for twenty-seven years. Maybe it does; he can't prove the contrary, and coin lasts long.

TO LEAD ONCE MORE!

To some the very name of the organization now in session will seem a mockery. The Virginia Progressive Democratic League—when, in party parlance, have the words "Virginia" and "progressive" been linked together before in the memory of the present generation? When, since the new Constitution freed us from the menace of a negro vote, have the white men of the dominant party in Virginia turned their face to the future and have striven to improve the government intrusted to us?

Yet, for the encouragement of the men who are met in Richmond to-day to plan better things for the party, be it remembered that the name which they have chosen is one that belonged on other days to Virginia as to no other State. Virginia, progressive legislation, Democracy—the three were synonyms in the early days of the republic. The Bill of Rights, the instruction for the Declaration of Independence and the call for the Annapolis convention were the foundation stones of democratic progress in the Union; the Virginia resolutions were the political gospel of the South for three generations.

More than this, the periods during which Virginia democracy has been progressive have been the periods when Virginia gave leaders to the nation and shaped the thought of the Union. The spirit which prompted the resolution that made Richard Henry Lee move for independence in Philadelphia was the spirit which made possible a generation of Washingtons, of Lees, of Monroes, of Madisons, of Marshalls, of Henrys, of Blaines, of Randolphs and of Pendletons. As long as that spirit was virile and strong, Virginia led; the moment that spirit yielded to contentment and self-satisfaction, Virginia followed—followed more and more slowly her aggressive sisters of the South.

There are evidences that with the birth of new ambition and of new ideals, Virginia is ready once more to construct, once more to lead. The people of Virginia are stirred by noble discontent, first evidence of a new awakening. Against those who have dominated the party during recent years the people bring no indictment of peculation or of gross dishonesty, no charge save that of indifference to the demands of the people, deafness to the calls for relief—unwilling to build for to-morrow in the light of to-day. And the greatest blame that can attach to a leader is that he fails to lead.

If the Virginia Progressive Democratic League can catch the spirit of this discontent and shape it into action, it will perform a service inestimable. Not by proscription but by construction, not by the club but by the lever, not by force but by inspiration of high example, can and must Virginians be pointed again to those lofty ideals of service which were ours in the manly youth of the republic. This the league must know if it would grow in influence and in power.

We would not be too strict in defining who may or may not be members; we would exact no binding pledge of loyalty to candidates or of subscription to a particular political creed. We would only, in a spirit of friendly council, call all who will look forward to life up their eyes, and lifting—to labor.

WISE EDITOR HOWELL.

Editor Clark Howell, of the Georgia Constitution, not only shows good public spirit, but good sense in declining the appointment to the United States Senate to succeed the late Senator Bacon. To have accepted the office would have been to weaken his influence and that of his newspaper. It would have placed him under obligations to one in politics, and would have subjected whatever policy he may have advocated to the suspicion of partisanship. He could not have remained the free agent he now is. All this he would have given up to accept a position not one whit more honorable and not at all more powerful for good. We congratulate him upon his decision.

DOGS AND SHEEP-RAISING.

The Lebanon News expresses a truth that cannot be gainsaid, we believe, when it declares that "the South as a whole will never accomplish what it should in stock raising and agriculture until it eliminates the worthless dog along with the cattle tick, the hookworm, and a few other dependencies that thrive on general ignorance and lack of community development." The correspondents of The Times-Dispatch have taken more interest in the proposed dog law than in many of the apparently more important bills before the Legislature. Scarcely a day passed for several weeks after the introduction of the Lewis bill that letters on the subject were not received, and they have not ceased yet by any means. There has been some opposition to the bill, but this has come chiefly from those extravagant dog lovers who are swayed by a sentiment which, however worthy it may be in itself, works harm when allowed to control. No one wishes to destroy good dogs, but all should wish them restrained. Those loyal to their masters and man's friend in the animal world, they should not be allowed to roam the country at will to destroy the sheep industry of the State. Until they are confined to their owners' space, except when under his supervision and control, and until the worthless curs are eliminated, there will be no sheep-raising in Virginia.

"It is not necessary to go to Tennessee," says the Louisville Courier-Journal, "to find instances of the infidelity of the fee system." Tell it to the Virginia Legislature!

Now that the Federal League has come, believe me, that has helped him some. No more the Magazine sits in state. The while the cringing players wait for chance to ask for better pay. They pay this office daily today. The Magazine now, contract in hand, goes scurrying out to Michigan. Whether a player is to be found. When Mr. Player now he sees. And says, with him on his knees. "Please, kind sir, sign with me today. But when he learns that Mr. McTeague has signed with the Federal League, he is in an interview.

McTeague has jumped. But it is true. The Feds have drawn one more hare.

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THE ROOT OF MEXICO'S TROUBLES.

The controlling cause of all the troubles in Mexico, and the cause of the execution, or murder, of the Englishman Benton, by Pancho Villa, are one and the same. It is remarkable that in the flood of conjecture let loose by the Mexican rebels' latest act of villainy, this fact should have been lost sight of. J. P. Taylor, whose communication we publish this morning, puts his finger upon it. It is foreign interference in the affairs of Mexico.

That interference has been industrial and political. In Mexico, as elsewhere, business has attempted to control politics. In the United States we have seen it operate through the means of political leaders and political parties, coercion, bribery and fraud at elections being the weapons best serving their purpose. In Mexico it has been revolution, financed by oil companies seeking concessions which the de facto government had refused to any or had granted to rival companies—revolution conducted by native bandits, but stirred up by foreign capitalists, for their own purposes. Big business set up and overthrew governments by revolution just as in this country it has attempted, and has often succeeded, in setting up and overthrowing parties by money and chicanery. It used ballots in the United States; bullets in Mexico.

We have ended it here. The interference of Big Business in politics has been stopped, and Big Business itself has been reformed in a great measure. But it did not reform until a prejudice, to some extent justified, but to a greater extent unjustified, had been created against all business. They have not ended it in Mexico, but they have acquired the prejudice precedent thereto, and that prejudice is against foreigners, whom they hold synonymous with capitalists, both being synonymous with meddling enemies of people and country. All foreigners are hated in Mexico, and it is chiefly the fault of the foreigners who have exploited the country and aroused resentment. Impulsive and hot-tempered, the Mexicans have followed resentment with action. We resented interference with ballots; they are resenting it with bullets. It is a weapon of defense against weapon of aggression.

Benton was a foreigner, and a rich foreigner. He was the very embodiment of the Mexican idea of an undesirable foreigner, to be hated with a holy and patriotic zeal. That he should be murdered with little excuse is not surprising, and if, as Villa claims, he added verbal insolence to active interference in Mexican affairs, it would have been surprising were he living to-day. We do not agree with our correspondent's attempt to justify Villa's action in killing Benton, but we do think he has given the correct explanation. Foreign attempts to control have caused Mexican revolutions; Benton is but one of those to reap the whirlwind.

FOR RELIEF OF TEACHERS.

The teachers of the Cumberland County schools did not receive their checks for part of the month of September and for the month of October until Thanksgiving Day. For January they had not been paid up to a few days ago. Similar conditions have existed in other counties at various times, and, although it is not probable that delays such as these are of frequent occurrence in many counties of the State, they should not occur at all in any county.

Under the operation of a law enacted by the last Legislature, however, occasional hardships of the kind cannot be avoided. This law requires State school funds to be paid by county treasurers from collections of State taxes, and as collections are not made until late in the fall, it sometimes happens that the treasurer has not the funds with which to pay the teachers for the early months of the year. The money is appropriated and apportioned for the schools of the various counties early in the fall, and if the funds for the payment of the teachers could be forwarded to the county treasurers by the State Auditor, delay, with consequent hardship for the teachers, would be avoided. This can be done by the amendment of the present law enacted by the Legislature of 1912, and such an amendment is proposed in House Bill No. 67, introduced by Delegate White. The Legislature should see that in the rush of business this bill is not overlooked.

Jimham, with his pink whiskers, is right in style without having to use dye.

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WHAT WAS NEWS FIFTY YEARS AGO

Reprinted from This Newspaper.

The Siege of Charleston. Yesterday was the second day of the siege of Charleston, and it was seen that the city is in a most desperate position. The rebels have been firing upon the city for several days, and the city is in a most desperate position. The rebels have been firing upon the city for several days, and the city is in a most desperate position.

From Mississippi. From Des Moines, Miss., General Leontides took service to the War Department. He took service to the War Department. He took service to the War Department. He took service to the War Department. He took service to the War Department.

Washington's Birthday. From all accounts, it would seem that the Yankees found time from their business to put down one or two of the rebels. George Washington, on the 22d, he wanted a great deal of powder firing salutes in honor of the man who conducted the rebellion. The greatest rebellion the world has ever known, and enabled the people to throw off the yoke of tyranny. The like of which has never been known in the history of the world.

Destruction of Fire. A fire broke out yesterday afternoon destroyed the Confederate States Bank on Cary Street, between First and Adams Streets. The place was more familiarly known as the "Dill" building. The bank had been in operation for several years. Several adjoining buildings and been acquired for the business, and the fire started in one of the outer buildings and made very rapid headway. The fire department was called, but the fire was too large to be controlled. The loss to the bank was estimated at \$100,000. The fire was caused by a defective chimney.

It was the House. From prisoners captured at Charleston, it was learned that the rebels had destroyed in the storm of last week the House of Representatives. The rebels had destroyed in the storm of last week the House of Representatives. The rebels had destroyed in the storm of last week the House of Representatives.

Extra Session Called. Governor Johnson, of Georgia, has called an extra session of the Legislature of that State to consider matters relating to the better protection of the State.

The Home Guards. The militia with which the second class militia of Richmond, Va., is connected, has been called out to guard the city. The militia with which the second class militia of Richmond, Va., is connected, has been called out to guard the city.

Dear Meek Is Good. A big, well-dressed man, dressed in a suit of dark cloth, was seen in the streets of Richmond, Va., yesterday. He was seen in the streets of Richmond, Va., yesterday. He was seen in the streets of Richmond, Va., yesterday.

The Danville Appeal. The Danville Appeal, a paper published in Danville, Va., has been called out to guard the city. The Danville Appeal, a paper published in Danville, Va., has been called out to guard the city.

Protection for Fish. To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: I am in your issue of February 19, under the heading "Protection for Fish," a notice in regard to the fish in the State. I am in your issue of February 19, under the heading "Protection for Fish," a notice in regard to the fish in the State.

Queries and Answers. Song Wanted. A song reprint for me Stanton Burleigh's song, "John." Will some reader kindly send copy?

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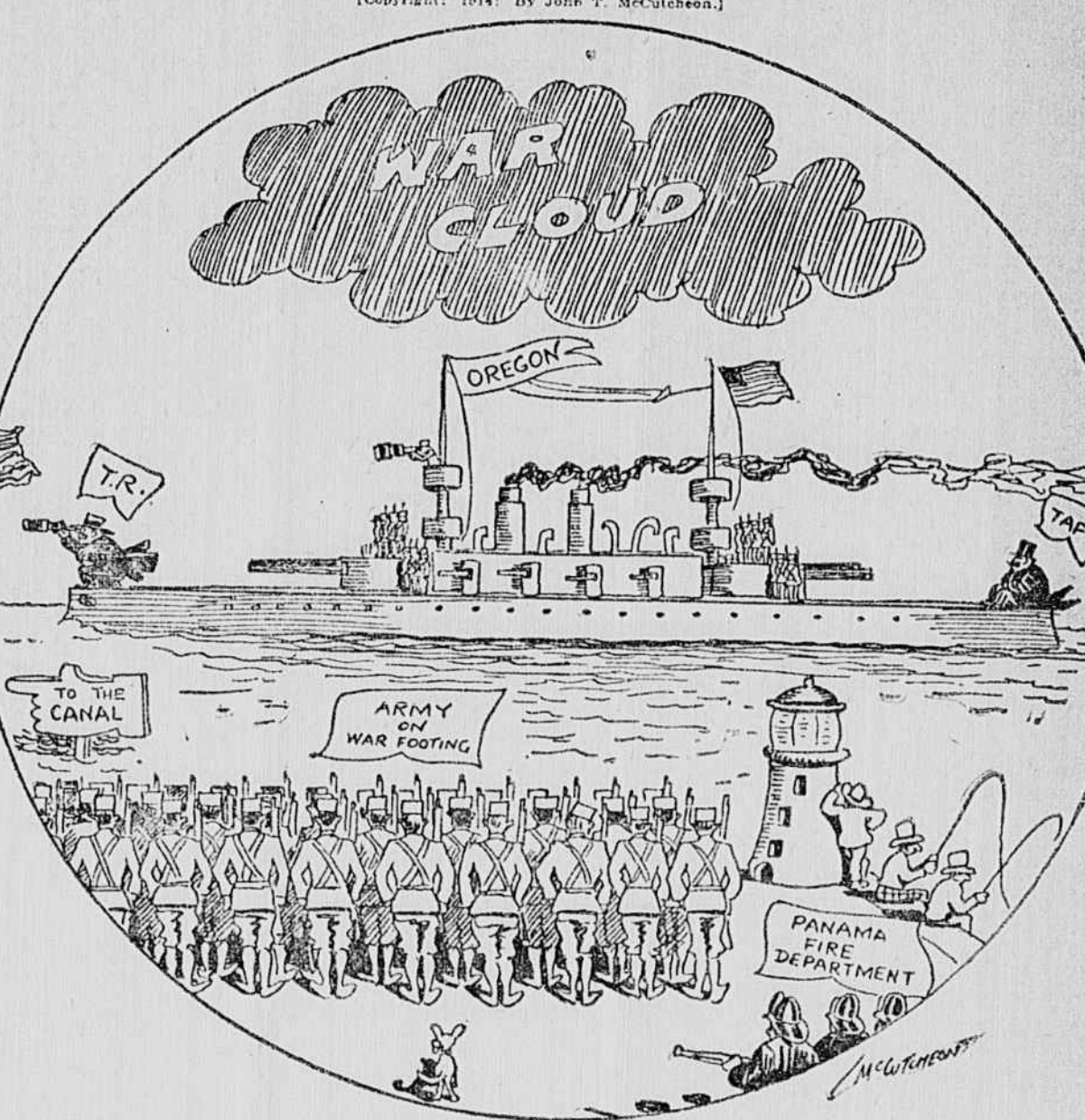
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THEY MAY BOTH BE ON THE OREGON AT THE OPENING OF THE CANAL.

By John T. McCutcheon.

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BILL TO REGULATE SELLING OF COTTON

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry Makes Favorable Report.

Washington, February 27.—The Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, by a vote of 11 to 4, has reported favorably on a bill introduced by Senator Smith, of South Carolina, to regulate the selling of cotton. The bill, designed to reform the rules and regulations of the New York and New Orleans Cotton Exchanges, would require any person or corporation engaged in the making of an offer for the grade or grades of cotton, to specify the grade or grades of cotton, to be in accordance with United States government standardization. The bill also would require the grades of upland and "gulf" cotton separately, "good ordinary" and "middling" anything below the grade to "good ordinary" or above "middling" fair.

The bill further would require that in dealing with long staple cotton, the length of the staple shall be designated in all contracts, and deliveries must be made according to the contract. Any dealing in violation of this provision would be punishable by a fine not to exceed \$500, or imprisonment for not more than a year, or both.

The bill also would deny the use of any person or corporation engaged in the making of an offer for the grade or grades of cotton, to be in accordance with United States government standardization. The bill also would require the grades of upland and "gulf" cotton separately, "good ordinary" and "middling" anything below the grade to "good ordinary" or above "middling" fair.

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News of Petersburg

The Times-Dispatch Bureau, 5 Bollingbrook Street, (Phone 145).

Petersburg, Va., February 27.—The Democratic City Committee, which was called to meet last night to hold a session for the purpose of nominating candidates for Mayor, Board of Aldermen and Common Council, and to discuss other matters in connection with the primary election, adjourned after a session of about an hour.

Merchants in Session. The Retail Merchants' Association, at the monthly meeting last night, heard addresses by T. J. Farrar, of the National Educational Union, on the development of the Southside counties, and James M. Ruffin, in the interest of the Southside Educational Association. The association will hold a session for the purpose of nominating candidates for Mayor, Board of Aldermen and Common Council, and to discuss other matters in connection with the primary election.

Death of Aged Farmer. Joseph Sherck, an aged and successful farmer of Dinwiddie County, died at his home near Burgess Station, on the Southside Air Line Railroad, at Petersburg, Va., yesterday. He was eighty-six years of age, and had been a resident of Petersburg for many years. He was a member of the Methodist Church, and was a devout Christian. He was survived by a wife and several children.

Funeral of Miss Kelley. The funeral of Miss Kelley, who died at her home in Petersburg, Va., yesterday, was held at the Methodist Church at 11 o'clock yesterday morning. The funeral was attended by a large number of friends, and was conducted by the Rev. J. H. Kelley, pastor of the church. The burial was in the cemetery at Petersburg.

Funeral of Mrs. Kelley. The funeral of Mrs. Kelley, who died at her home in Petersburg, Va., yesterday, was held at the Methodist Church at 11 o'clock yesterday morning. The funeral was attended by a large number of friends, and was conducted by the Rev. J. H. Kelley, pastor of the church. The burial was in the cemetery at Petersburg.

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